



# Superintendent of Schools Report to the Board

January 27, 2026

*Jernice Kerr Swift*

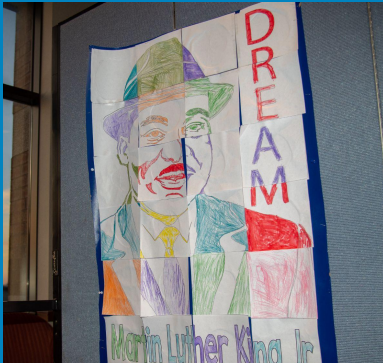
# Jayhawk Rotary Club

Attended Jayhawk Rotary's 9th annual MLK Jr. Community Breakfast on Monday, January 19.

- **Ewa Adedipe (Free State HS student)** was awarded the **Jayhawk Breakfast Rotary Club MLK scholarship for \$1,500**



# One Dream MLK Celebration 2026



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# New York Community Meal

**New York Elementary** hosted their 39th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Meal.

- Staff & volunteers provided **chili, desserts, & more** to dozens of Lawrence students & families.



# School Spotlight

**Free State High School** welcomed elementary & middle school learners for **Performing Arts Day**.



# Community Conversations 2026

Strategic Plan 2030

Provide feedback online via survey:

[www.usd497.org/future](http://www.usd497.org/future)



Provide feedback in-person (more opportunities will be added):

- Educational Support Center (Boardroom) — Jan. 28, 6:00 p.m.
- Hillcrest Elementary — Feb. 5, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- Woodlawn Elementary — Feb. 10, 5:30 p.m.
- Billy Mills Middle School — Feb. 17, 6:00 p.m.

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# Our Mission



# Winter Weather Procedures

- **District only notifies if** a cancellation or schedule change has been made.
- Parents/guardians will receive **text/email/voice calls** via ParentSquare.
- Closures shared with media, at **[www.usd497.org](http://www.usd497.org)**, & on our Facebook.
  - *@LawrencePublicSchools* on FB.



# Ovation! 2026

- **Sunday, February 1 — 7:00 p.m.**  
@ the Lied Center of Kansas
- **Purchase tickets at [lied.ku.edu](https://lied.ku.edu)**  
or the Lied Center Ticket Office
- **Tickets \$15 for adults & \$5 for students/youth**
- Proceeds benefit **Lawrence Schools Foundation!**



# Parent Teacher Conferences



## Early Childhood & Elementary:

- February 11-12 — EC-5 PT Conferences

## Middle School & High School:

(Includes *College & Career Center* & *LVS*)

- February 9-12 (dates vary by school)
- Ask your school for PT Conference dates/times.

# 2026-27 Preschool Enrollment

**Preschool classrooms** coming to **Deerfield & Prairie Park** Elementary Schools in the 2026-27 school year.



## Preschool

**Early Enrollment Window**



**February 2 – March 22**



**Acceptance notifications sent by April 1**  
*Based on eligibility, availability, and at-risk verification.*



**Sites:** Kennedy Early Childhood Center, New York Montessori,  
Deerfield, Prairie Park, Sunflower, & Woodlawn Elementary School.



**Enroll at [www.usd497.org/preschool](http://www.usd497.org/preschool)**

# Important Dates

- **Sunday, Feb. 1** (6:00-7:00 p.m.)  
Ovation! 2026 — USD 497 Talent Show
- **Friday, Feb. 6**  
**EC-HS NO SCHOOL**
- **Monday, Feb. 9** (6:00-7:00 p.m.)  
Board of Education Meeting
- **Thursday, Feb. 12**  
**EC-5 NO SCHOOL**, EC-5 PT Conferences
- **Friday, Feb. 13**  
**EC-HS NO SCHOOL**



# BOE Appreciation Artwork

In honor of **School Board Appreciation Month**, each board member will receive a small collage of artwork by students from **Deerfield Elementary**.



*\*Pictured above: examples of the artwork.*

# School Spotlight

Kindergarten at **Schwegler Elementary** learned about weather from a National Weather Service meteorologist.

